Closure of Zoos in Karnataka

667. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to implementation of new laws of Zoo Authority of India many private and community zoos in Karnataka are on the verge of closure; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) According to Section 38(H) of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 Central Zoo Authority is required to grant recognition to a zoo keeping due regards to the interests of protection and conservation of wildlife and the standards and norms that have been prescribed for housing, upkeep and healthcare of zoo animals. The zoos which do not meet the objective of conservation and can not provide the animals in their collection, housing, upkeep and healthcare upto the prescribed standards, can not be granted recognition. Such zoos are required by law to be closed down.

Clean Ganga Scheme

668. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsreport, "Clean Ganga Project bogged down", published in the Times of India dated the 21st April, 2001;

(b) if so, the Government reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove bottlenecks in the Clean Ganga Scheme mentioned in the report?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The government has received two separate proposals for Ganga Action Plan Phase-II works for cleaning of Ganga at Varanasi, one from Uttar Pradesh Government and the other from Sankat Mochan Foundation, a non-governmental organization of Varanasi. Both these proposals have been examined by a number of technical experts and committees during the past four